TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

UPON THE

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

Education and Instruction of the Blind,

BRANTFORD,

BEING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1883.

Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly.

Toronto:

PRINTED BY "GRIP" PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., 26 & 28 FR

1884.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

UPON THE

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

With the Compliments of

R. CHRISTIE,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities,

Toronto.

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR REPORT IN EXCHANGE.

Toronto:

PRINTED BY "GRIP" PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., 26 & 28 FRONT ST.

1884.

Office of the

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, Ontario,

Parliament Buildings, Toronto, December, 1883.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Twelfth Annual Report upon the Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1883.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,

Inspector.

The Honourable

Arthur Sturgis Hardy, Q.C., M.P.P.,

Secretary for the Province of Ontario,

Toronto.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Decrease in average number of pupils	2
Reasons for non-admission of pupils over 21 years	2
Discontinuance of system of searching for pupils	2
Circular to medical practitioners	2
Session of 1881-82 a successful one	2
Improvements made to buildings	2
Changes in staff	2
Land adjacent to Institution, intended sale of, for building purposes	2
Report recommending purchase of a portion nearest the Institution	3
Land valued by the Arbitrators	3
Report of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works	4
Purchase of twenty-one acres, approved of	4
Acquisition of the land of great importance to the Institution	4
Literary Department, examination of, made by Dr. Kelly and Mr. Wilkinson	5
Musical department, examined by Mr. E. Fisher	5
Report of Messrs. Kelly and Wilkinson	5-8
Report of Mr. Fisher	8-9
Inspections, first visit made by Dr. O'Reilly	10
Number of pupils	10
Health fairly good	10
Occupations of pupils	10
Examination made of buildings	10
Heating arrangements	10
Ice-house	10
Store-room and cellar for Bursar	11
Coal shed at pumping house	11
Alterations and additions necessary	11
Second inspection made on 7th March	11
Works ordered to be proceeded with, list of	11
Institution visited in August	11
Inspection made on 24th October	12
Improvements made during vacation	12
Certain rooms re-floored and re-ceiled	12
Sanatarium for boys, place of	12
Dormitory for youngest male pupils formed	12
Literary Masters' private rooms	12
Female pupils' quarters, re-arrangement of	12
Conversion of old landing into store-room	12
Sidewalks, etc., re-laying of	12

	Page
New bath-rooms, wash-rooms, etc.	13
Pumping arrangements	13
Sick ward for female pupils needed	13
Manner in which it can be provided	13
Certain floors and ceilings to be repaired	13
Number of pupils in residence	14
Farm produce	14
Maintenance expenditures	14-15
Report of the Principal	15-28
Number and movements of pupils	15
Decrease in attendance, reasons of	16
New pupils, number and ages of	16-17
Overage pupils, number of	17
Issue of circular to medical practitioners recommended	17
Staff, changes in	18
Literary classes, limit table of	18-19
Music classes	20
Industrial Department—willow-shop	21-23
Sewing-room	23
Knitting-room	23
Bead and fancy-work	23
Library	24
Health and discipline	24-25
Acknowledgments	26
Internal improvements	26
Improvements in the grounds	26
Farm operations	27
Additional land, purchase of	27
Further improvements needed, list of	27
Statistical tables	28-30
Report of the Physician	31-32

INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

TWELFTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Inspector of Prisons & Public Charities

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
Toronto, November, 1883.

To the Honourable JOHN BEVERLY ROBINSON, *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:—

I beg to submit herewith the Twelfth Annual Report upon the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1883.

I have the honour to be,

Your Honour's most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,
INSPECTOR.

INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

In the Session of 1882-83, which closed in June, 1883, the average number of pupils in residence in the Institution was 138, (76 males, 62 females), against an average of 149, (85 males, 65 females), in the previous Session. On the 30th September, 1883, the actual number in residence was 112, (58 males, 54 females), but as the session of 1883-84 had only commenced a fortnight before, all the pupils to whom admission had been awarded had not returned. It is expected that the average attendance this session will be about 120. The Principal in his report goes fully into the reasons for the decrease which has taken place in the attendance of the Institution in the last three or four years, the chief of these is, the more rigid application of the rule in regard to the admission of persons over the age of 21 years. This was found to be necessary, as the tendancy was to admit almost every case, and naturally so, for the circumstances surrounding many of them were painful, and thus the Institution was in danger of being lowered into an asylum for the indigent blind. Another cause for the decrease is the fact that such over-age pupils as have acquired thorough knowledge of some particular study or industry, or, after a patient trial, have shewn complete inapitude to learn, have been refused readmission. Those who have given the matter any thought will at once see that the presence of many pupils over the age of 21, must always cause some irritation, for rules which are quite proper for the younger pupils and easily obeyed by them, are naturally irksome to those many years their senior. Unless, therefore, most excellent reasons were given for exceptional action, the rule denying admission to persons over the age of 21 has been put in force. Another reason for the decreased attendance may be the discontinuance during the past few years, of the system of sending several of the male officers of the Institution throughout the Province searching for pupils, as it was thought that the Institution was sufficiently well known as not to need any special efforts being made to bring it to the notice of those persons who should be most interested in its existence. In view, however, of the very large decrease in the attendance, which one can hardly hope is caused by a decrease in the blind population, the suggestion of the Principal that a circular describing the benefits held out by the Institution should be sent to all the medical practitioners in the Province, appears to be a good one and I therefore recommend its adoption.

It gives me pleasure to state that the Session of 1882-83, was in many respects a successful one. The Principal reports that upon the whole the conduct of the pupils was satisfactory. The Physician mentions no outbreaks of serious diseases, and the examiners of the literary and musical departments certify that good progress had been made since the previous examinations.

Then again improvements have been made in the buildings, and certain changes in the staff. In carrying out these latter, the desire to increase the efficiency thereof was kept in view. For details of these improvements and changes, I beg to refer to my inspection minutes, and to the Principal's report, as the remarks here made by me must necessarily be very general in their character.

During the past year, it was reported by the Principal that the owner of certain land lying north-west and west of, and adjacent to the Institution, intended to dispose of it in small lots for building purposes. As this was a matter of such importance to the well being of the Institution, I at once visited Brantford to ascertain whether a portion of this land could not be purchased for the Institution and the necessary isolation secured. I subsequently made a report to the Government, a copy of which I annex :—

"I beg leave to report that the attention of the department has been called by the Principal of the Institution for the Blind to the acquirement of some additional land on the north-westerly boundary of the Institution.

"It appears that sixty-five acres were purchased when the location of the Institution was fixed at Brantford, at something over $130 per acre. Part of this ground lay very low, and another small portion of it was an elevation, the elevated part being a corner fronting on the public highway, adjoining the Grand Trunk Railway, and being the most northerly part of the lands purchased. In order, therefore, that the Institution and outbuildings might be situated on the elevated part, it became necessary to place them almost abutting upon the northern boundary line. There is now between the buildings of the institution, the children's play-sheds, grounds, etc., and northerly boundary, but a narrow lane. Adjoining this and north of the boundary line is what is known as the Bush Hill and Oakley Park, a sketch of a part of which is hereto attached, and it is intimated by the Principal that this land is now being bought from Mr. Orchard, of Drummondville, who has held it for a number of years upon certain trusts.

"The city of Brantford has grown in the direction of the Institution quite to its northwestern limit, and the lands adjoining the Institution upon the north-west, and west, now offer perhaps as eligible building sites as can be found conveniently to the city. I learn that negotiations are in progress for the purchase of this land, owned by Mr. Orchard, with a view to having it laid out in town lots, especially that part which fronts on the main highway, and abuts against the Institution property. Should a suburban village spring up on this land, or should numerous houses be built immediately adjoining the Institution, and should they be occupied by lawless and reckless characters, or should it become thickly populated, although by people not of a vicious class who would yet have around them youths and young men, it would be a source of great danger to the blind pupils, and especially to the female portion of them whose play-sheds, and play-grounds, as I have mentioned, adjoin the land in question.

"Either certain portions of the land to the north-west, and west of the Institution should be purchased so as to prevent the erection of a large number of houses etc. by way of a suburb to the city, directly adjoining the Institution grounds, and so close to the buildings, play-grounds, etc.; or, in the alternative, the erection of a very high brick wall would become necessary so as to prevent persons who would settle upon this territory having improper access to the Institution grounds, play-sheds, etc.

"I have examined the situation of the land, and am of opinion that it would be in the interest of the Institution, and of the blind in attendance thereat, that a certain portion of the land should be purchased and incorporated with that of the Blind Institution. This would for all time prevent the erection at the very doors of the Institution of a suburb which might or might not be controlled by good members of society, while at the same time it would afford more room for play-grounds, etc.

"So far as I could learn, the value is not likely to be very considerable. It has been surveyed off, as will be seen by the accompanying sketch, into park lots, some of which, D, E, and F, and probably G, are, I am advised, now being laid out into small town lots.

"I would recommend, at least, that lots D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N, be purchased or expropriated. These lots contain in all about twenty acres. The owner claims that lots D, E, and F, containing about four acres, and being eminently available as building lots, are worth at least three hundred dollars per acre, and that the remaining portion is worth ninety dollars per acre.

"I am not satisfied that his charges are altogether reasonable, and am of opinion that the price should be fixed by arbitration, and I would therefore

recommend that the lots lettered as above be taken for Institution purposes, and that the arbitrators be directed to take evidence upon the value thereof."

The Provincial Arbitrators duly met, and, after valuing the land, reported to the Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works the result of their enquiries. Thereupon the Commissioner made to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the following report, viz. :—

"Inspector Christie having, by his report, bearing date the 22nd day of August, 1883, reported as to the necessity of acquiring additional lands lying north of and adjoining the lands of the Institution for the Blind at Brantford for the purposes of the Institution, an Order in Council, bearing date the 1st day of September, 1883, was passed, approving of said report, and directing, amongst other things, an arbitration as to the value of the said property. The said lands are situate in the Township of Brantford, in the County of Brant, and contain by admeasurement twenty-one acres, one rood, and twenty-one perches, more or less, and are composed of lots lettered respectively: D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N, in and according to a plan and survey of Bush Hill and Oakley Park, in the said Township of Brantford; also, a parcel of land which was laid out originally as an allowance for a public street called Bush Hill Street, between the said lands lettered respectively H, I, and J, on the easterly side thereof, and the lots lettered respectively K and L on the westerly side thereof, the title whereof is vested in John A. Orehard, of Drummondville, his heirs and assigns.

"The Provincial Arbitrators thereafter, and after notice to the owner of the said lands, proceeded to determine the value thereof, and all parties being present heard the evidence of all parties, and thereupon, by their award bearing date the 19th day of September, 1883, did appraise, determine, and award the sum or amount of the purchase money or compensation which should be paid by the Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario, as such Commissioner to the said John A. Orchard, for and receipt of the said lands at two thousand five hundred and sixty-two dollars and fifty cents ($2,562.50).

"The said arbitrators further recommend that the sum of ninety-three dollars ($93) should be paid to the said John A. Orchard as costs and disbursements in connection with the said arbitration.

"The said Award is signed by two Provincial Arbitrators, namely: T. H. A. Begue, Esq., Chairman, and Henry Taylor, Esq.; the third arbitrator, W. McBurney, Esq., declining to join therein upon the ground, as he alleges, that the sum awarded is inadequate and insufficient.

"The undersigned respectfully recommends that the said lands be acquired for the use of the Institution for the Blind, at and for the appraised value thereof, named in the said award, namely: the sum of two thousand and five hundred and sixty-two dollars and fifty cents ($2,562.50), and that upon the title thereto being shewn to be satisfactory and the conveyance thereof being duly executed that the said sums be inserted in the estimates to be laid before the Legislature at the next session thereof."

The above recommendation was duly approved of by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor.

The acquisition of this land secures the privacy of the Institution from intrusion, a matter of great importance, considering the nature and comparative helplessness of its inmates.

Examinations.

The literary department was again examined by Dr. Kelly, Public School Inspector for the County of Brant, and Mr. Wilkinson, M.A., Principal of the

Brantford Central School; and the musical department by Mr. Edward Fisher, of Toronto. The report of the first named is annexed, and is followed by Mr. Fisher's, viz.:

"We have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report of the results of the examination of the literary classes in the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, at Brantford.

"The examination was commenced on Monday, the 28th May, and continued to the evening of the 30th. Subsequently on the 11th of June we revisited the Institution to witness the calisthenic exercises of the pupils under the direction of their instructor, Mr. Shannon. The pupils went through the various evolutions embraced in their systems of drill in a highly satisfactory manner, the movements being regulated by organ accompaniments, and the time kept excellent. The value of this drill as a means of physical development can not be over-estimated. The blind being necessarily precluded from much active bodily exercise, are more in need of physical training than seeing children. Hence the provision made here for drilling the pupils cannot fail to be of immense advantage to them as a restorer and preserver of health. The only drawback to its complete efficiency is the want of a suitable gymnasium, the room now used for the purpose being altogether too small. The class-rooms and corridors are found in a very satisfactory state, and the ventilation all that could be desired. We could not fail to notice the improved state and the advancement made in the growth and appearance of the ornamental and other trees since our last examination. The excellent order that prevailed inside the class-rooms, in the corridors and grounds was also noticeable. A considerable addition to the library for the use of the pupils, of books in embossed print, has been made in the interval. When it is considered that the major part of the blind children of the Province enjoy here advantages of books and instruction which their parents unaided would be utterly unable to procure for them, the inestimable value of such an Institution as this becomes evident. The results of the examinations are as follows: The classes of each teacher are grouped together:

MR. WICKENS'S CLASSES.

1. *Reading*—Class A. This is a class of 19 all reading embossed print, except four who read point print, which requires less delicacy of touch. The members of this class generally read fluently, and with taste and correct expressions, and know well the substance of what they read. They can also spell accurately the most difficult words in the reading lesson.

2. *Arithmetic*—Class B. Fourteen in number is limited to the simple and compound rules and reductions. Two obtained the maximum (100) number of marks, one 80 per cent. and one 60 per cent.; four 40 per cent., and the rest 20 per cent.; a few are incapable. The class seems to have been carefully instructed.

3. *Geography*—Class A. This class numbers 15, and is limited to America, Europe and Asia. The pupils were examined on the sectional maps and shewed a remarkably accurate knowledge of the contour of the several continents and countries, the capitals, chief seaports, forms of the several Governments, manufacture, natural productions, exports and imports.

4. *Writing*—Class A. The writing, on the whole, is good; some specimens remarkably so. In order to test them at once in composition and penmanship they were requested to write a letter. The form in most cases neat and correct, and the capitalizing and punctuation fair.

5. *Natural History.* The pupils in this class were examined in physiology and proved themselves well acquainted with the general structure of the human body, and the process of digestion and circulation, and also with the nervous

system, and the general facts of hygiene. They were likewise examined at some length in zoology, and were found to possess a large amount of information in regard to the classification of animals, their habits, habitat, etc. Few classes in any school could pass a better examination in these subjects.

6. *English Grammar*—Class B. This class evinced a good knowledge of the subject. The answering was prompt and accurate, and the results even better than those attained by the corresponding class of last year. Besides the usual examination in the general theory of grammar, parsing and analysis, considerable time was spent in testing their ability to detect and correct grammatical errors. This they did well, not only detecting the mistake but citing the rule violated.

Miss Walsh's Class.

1. *Reading*—Class C. We were pleased to notice the great advancement several of the pupils in this class had made since our last examination. Their spelling is very correct and quite in advance of that of a year ago, and their ability to give the sense of a passage, and to explain the meaning of the most difficult words, is also improved.

2. *Arithmetic*—Class A. This class passed an excellent examination. The problems were, in the main, of a practical character, as it was judged better to give them that class of problems, than those whose solution would involve intricate methods. Though many of the questions were quite different, yet, they were solved with rapidity and accuracy, and by methods that shewed the pupils had been carefully trained to think.

3. *Geography*—Class C. In the examination of this class, particular attention was paid to the Dominion of Canada. The pupils acquitted themselves very well, the majority shew how carefully the teacher has taught, and how faithfully the pupils have worked. Though the examination was comparatively rigorous, there were very few failures, and no question was asked which some of the class was not capable of answering,

4. *Writing*—Class D. This class has learned to join letters so as to form words, and to write small letters and capitals.

5. *Object Lessons*—Class B. The examination of this class, embraced, in the first place, questions designed to elicit the knowledge the pupils had of direction and form. In this they did tolerably well. They were then examined on objects, birds, beasts, insects, etc.; of this part of the examination, it is scarcely possible to speak in too high terms. The questions were answered with wonderful accuracy, and showed with what zest they had entered into the subject. Specimens of the different kinds of grain were then given them to distinguish. This they did readily, and showed that they possessed a satisfactory knowledge of the objects handled.

6. *English Grammar*—Class D. A very promising class, and one of very uniform excellence; smaller than the one of last year, and a decided improvement on it. The pupils were very thoroughly examined in elementary grammar, and, as the marks shew, acquitted themselves well.

Miss Cox's Classes.

1. *Reading*—Class D. This is a combination of three classes, reading in different books, and being at different stages of advancement. The reading as a rule, was good, the enunciation generally clear, and the emphasis correctly placed and expressed.

2. *Arithmetic*—Class D. This class is too large for easy management and successful teaching. The work done by the majority was creditable. Some, indeed, did remarkably well, solving all the problems that were given. Those marked low

are pupils of weak intellect, who seem incapable of learning this subject. In order to relieve Miss Cox, we would recommend either the formation of an additional class, or such an arrangement of the present classes in arithmetic, as would reduce this class to 25 at most. It is now 38.

3. *Geography* — Class D. This class numbers 25, and is limited to the "Dominion," of which they are supposed to get a general knowledge, and Ontario, which they must know well. The pupils are of very unequal attainments. Three or four are incapables. Their teacher had evidently made the most of the material committed to her care.

4. *Writing*—Class C. A very fair class. Most of them write quite legibly, which, for the blind, is the great desideratum. The letters are fairly formed and joined, and the capitals pretty well done. They wrote a short composition on the "Queen's Birthday," and did it very well.

5. *Object Lessons*—Class C. Pupils of this class are taught direction and form, so that they understand them fairly. They have also acquired a good idea of several common objects, and their uses

6. *English Grammar*—Class C. The examination of this class was particularly severe for pupils of their ages. The answers of most were especially noticeable for their intelligence, the pupils having evidently not been taught by rote, but made to understand the import of the language used. They are particularly good in the synthesis and analysis of easy sentences, and parsed such with facility.

Mr. Shannon's Classes.

1. *Reading*—Class D. This class is composed principally of those beginning to read, some of them being still in words of two letters. The reading of several was very good. Mr. Shannon seems well fitted, by his kindness and patience, to introduce them to the subject, which, in case of some of them, seems very difficult to learn. Many of them have made remarkable progress, and can read small words very fluently.

2. *Arithmetic*—Class C. This class, numbering 17, is limited to the simple rules and easy problems. The examination was satisfactory in all respects.

3. *Geography*—Class B. This class was examined in the Geography of the Western Continent generally. Particular attention being paid to British America and the United States. The pupils have attained a correct idea of the relative position of the different countries, and can point out with ease on the dissected map, the positions of the principal cities, the course of the chief rivers, their affluents, and the chief towns on their banks. They have a good general knowledge of the productions of each country, and its form of government.

4. *Writing*—Class E. The pupils are able to make the small letters very fairly. Some are very much in advance of others, owing, it is presumed, to certain circumstances which seem to make it difficult to teach some blind children to write.

5. *English Grammar.*—Class A. This class was under Miss Montgomery's charge up to 1st April. It numbers 13; does very good work as a whole, is well acquainted with grammatical forms, can analyze and parse with much facility. Analyzed a long extract from the "Pleasures of Hope," beginning at "Warsaw's last champion from the height surveyed" with considerable ease, and readily parsed the words.

6. *History.* This class is proficient in the History of England, and was very thoroughly examined in the subject. It would be hard to find its superior. We respectfully suggest the formation of a class in Canadian History.

7. *English Literature.* This class had been under the charge of the Principal since the first of April, when Miss Montgomery resigned it. The class numbers

18. The work covered during the year was rather extensive. It embraces the literature of the second half of the 18th century and much of the first part of the 19th, including Cowper, his life and chief works; also Burns, Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge, Sir Walter Scott and Thomas Moore. They had touched more lightly on Campbell, James Montgomery, Mrs. Hemans, Hogg, Rogers and Crabbe; and the novelists, Richardson, Fielding and Smollett. In addition they had mastered and pretty well digested the "Merchant of Venice." Two of them gave an excellent synopsis of the play, (one oral, the other written,) detailing the scenes and incidents and *dramatis personæ*. Most members of the class were able to quote at length passages from the most important parts, and to explain the classical references and allusions. They had also memorized long extracts from the poems of Scott, Coleridge, Moore, etc. As several of these are printed, in fact in embossed type, the pupils are able to read them during their leisure hours, and can appreciate their beauties just as well as those who see. As the "Midsummer's Night's Dream" and "Julius Cæsar" are now published in embossed print, we would recommend that one of these plays be taken up next term, and that Tennyson and Longfellow be added to the list of poets for further study. We cannot close without an expression of our thanks to the Principal for many acts of courtesy and kindness during the examination.

MR. FISHER'S REPORT.

I beg to submit herewith my report concerning the Music Classes of the Ontario Institute for the Blind, which were examined by me on the 1st and 2nd June.

"I have much pleasure in being able to state that I found the Music Department, as a whole, in a much more satisfactory condition than it was a year ago, notwithstanding the fact that a number of the most advanced pupils (graduates) left the Institution at the end of last session; was strongly impressed with the many evidences shewn me of increasing carefulness and system in the Institution, as well as a greater amount of attention being paid to the laying of a solid foundation in the musical studies of the pupils. Also, I noticed a very praiseworthy improvement in the class of music used by the teachers generally; the best composers being much more freely drawn upon than formerly. I trust that still further improvement will be made in this direction, for I believe that there is no surer and more direct method of edueating the taste of young people, impressing them with high and noble purposes in life, than by familiarizing them with the best thought of the world's great geniuses. Therefore, I would say, banish entirely all frivolous and unmeaning compositions from the curriculum of studies adopted in the musical education of the blind.

"In making a detailed statement concerning the various classes, I will commence with those of Miss Jones, which consist of five pianoforte classes, including the senior pupils, and a class in music writing (point print).

"I will only say, regarding these classes, that their progress has been most satisfactory, the instruction which they have received being of a very superior charaeter. I took every pupil in the piano classes separately, hearing them perform, besides their technical exercises, compositions from such authors as Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, Mozart, and others, and with scarcely an exception their playing was very creditable.

"Prof. Zinger's classes were examined next. They were as follows, namely, one pipe organ, two reed organs, two harmony, and one class in counterpoint. The pipe organ class has made considerable progress during the past year, as much,

perhaps, as could be expected, considering the very limited amount of practice which the pupils get. I would recommend that at least an hour daily be allotted to each pupil for practice. I would also repeat my recommendation of last year concerning the teaching of improvisation in this class. I am more firmly convinced than ever of its great importance to the blind student, and earnestly hope that it will be made obligatory in the future.

"The motor question still hangs fire. I would suggest that if the obstacles in the way of placing a motor in the building are found to be quite insurmountable, a person be engaged to blow the organ, thus relieving the students from that very arduous and unpleasant duty.

"Mr. Zinger's reed organ classes have made good progress. The classes in harmony and counterpoint showed excellent results for the year's work, that in counterpoint being, if I mistake not, the first in this difficult branch of music which has been formed in this Institution.

"I was also shewn several specimens of original composition by students in the counterpoint class.

"These were of value, at least, in demonstrating that the pupils had some definite ideas concerning musical form, and that they were capable of doing still more creditable things in the field of musical composition.

"Prof. Baker's violin classes did themselves and their teacher very great credit. Two members of this class were especially proficient, and will, without doubt, make accomplished solo performers in course of time.

"Miss Nolan's vocal classes gave evidence of considerable progress since last year, and their *repertoire* of songs and choruses surprised me by its extent and variety. Improvement might still be made, however, in regard to quality of tone and method of respiration.

"In examining Miss Moore's classes, I was much gratified to observe a marked improvement over the previous year in their general style of playing. There had evidently been the closest attention paid to their instruction in every respect, the rudimentary technical work having had its due share of time and consideration. Miss Moore has four pianoforte and three reed organ classes, all of which I examined in detail, and found in a very satisfactory state of advancement. These pupils played to me compositions by Beethoven, Schumann, Handel, Hayden, Heller, Clementi, and other classical composers.

"Miss McNish's pupils, forming seven pianoforte classes and one reed organ class, of more or less elementary grades, are on the right road to success and making excellent progress, doing themselves and their teachers much credit.

"Mr. Raymond's tuning class, consisting of seven pupils, demonstrated various degrees of ability in piano-tuning, but all shewed the results of careful training on the part of their teacher. I believe two members intend to earn their livelihood in the future by means of the skill and knowledge which they have gained in the Institution.

"I found the various Musical Instruments generally in good condition. The piano actions will require, however, to be put in thorough order during the summer vacation, some of them having become somewhat loose with the wear and tear of a year's constant use.

"In conclusion, allow me to express my thanks to Principal Dymond for his courtesy and kindness in facilitating my work while there, and to reiterate my opinion that the pupils of the Institutions have in him a true friend, who is fully alive to the importance of meeting and satisfying their musical requirements, as well as the more prosaic needs of their moral and physical natures."

INSPECTIONS.

The first visit of inspection to the Institution during the year was made by Dr. O'Reilly on the 14th December, 1882, as he had then supervision of its affairs. A copy of his report to Government is annexed :—

"I made my first inspection of this Institution for the current year on the 14th December, 1882. The chief object of my visit was to ascertain from personal observations, the wants of the establishment in respect to the additions, alterations and repairs, needed to the buildings, as well as to the furnishings.

"On this occasion, there were 76 male and 58 female pupils in residence. A few more were expected after the Christmas holidays, but it is probable that the total number of pupils for the current year will not reach more than about 140.

"The health of all the inmates seemed fairly good. There was no pupil seriously ill ; one girl was under the care of the doctor, suffering from neuralgia, probably caused by the very bad condition of her teeth. One of the male pupils was laid up with a sprained ankle joint. These were the only pupils absent from their daily classes. There are always, of course, more or less cases of chronic ailments of the eyes. On the occasion of this visit, there were only some five or six who required the attention of the physician.

"I had the pleasure of hearing a rehearsal of the music and readings in preparation for the usual Christmas Entertainment. I was much struck with the proficiency of the pupils both in music and recitation. The music produced was not composed of show pieces, but chosen from the ordinary *repertoire* of each pupil, and all shewed evidence of great care on the part of the teachers.

"All of the pupils are more or less engaged, a part of their time at any rate, in literary studies ; the younger ones, of course, spend all their time in study ; the elder pupils divide their time between literary studies and industrial pursuits. There are seventy-seven pupils taking lessons in instrumental music, while the vocal classes number fifty. In the workshop, thirty male pupils are engaged at basket and willow furniture making. All of these thirty pupils, however, do not spend their whole time in the shop, but a part of each day is given to study, either literary or musical.

"I made a careful examination of the whole building and its surroundings, the result of which will be embodied in my recommendations to the Government as to work required to be done.

"The heating apparatus of the old building is found to be of such a character that a high pressure of steam is necessarily kept upon the boilers in order to force steam through the pipes, but even with a pressure of 25 to 40 pounds upon the boilers it is found that sufficient heat cannot be obtained in the class-rooms, and the steam-heating apparatus has to be supplemented with stoves. There is an element of danger in this, especially amongst blind pupils, also an unnecessary expense for the fuel required to keep up such high pressure of steam and for consumption in the stoves. A reconstruction of the heating apparatus in the old part of the building will be commenced. The workshops now heated by stoves, and subject of course to the same danger to the pupils and also to accidents to the building, can, now that the new boilers are put in the boiler house, be heated with steam therefrom. A recommendation will be made to the Government to that effect.

"The erection of the new wing last year necessitated the destruction of the ice-house. The time for storing the supply of ice for the season having nearly arrived, I instructed the Principal to proceed immediately with the construction of a new house. This will be best accomplished by the enlargement of the boys' play-shed to double its present size, with an ice-house at one end of it.

"From the same cause, viz., the erection of the new wing, it has become possible to provide a proper store-room and cellar for the use of the Bursar. Some alterations and fittings are required for these for which an appropriation will be asked.

"A small coal-shed at the pumping-house being absolutely necessary for the protection of the coal from the weather, and there being sufficient funds for the purpose, I instructed the Principal to have one erected immediately.

"The other works which are required are:

"The flooring of some of the corridors, the kitchen and the scullery.

"The replacing of fallen ceilings in several of the rooms with matched boarding.

"Painting in several of the rooms and corridors throughout the building.

"Iron treads for the back stairs.

"Lumber for repairs and extension of walks through the grounds for the use of the blind pupils.

"The ventilation of the laundry and ironing-room.

"The enlargement of the bakery.

"There are also some repairs and renewals of furniture in the various rooms required.

"Trees and tree planting. A recommendation will be made to the Government for appropriations for all these items at the proper time."

I made the second inspection on the 7th March, and made the following report:—

"I visited this Institution for the more special purpose of giving instructions for the expenditure of such portion of the appropriation made by the Legislature as seemed desirable thus early in the season.

"After minute enquiries into the wants of the Institution, instructions were given to carry out works as under:

1. Lay new stringers for girls' walk, from the Institution to lower gate—1,500 feet.

2. One thousand feet of the girls' walk to be relaid with new lumber.

3. Two crossings to be made from the new rear enterance to offices east and west.

4. The completion of the boys' board walk to Harrison's Lodge.

5. To relay with black birch flooring, the floor of the third dormitory, the stair landings, the rear hall approach to dining-room, kitchen, and scullery, to replace with pine sheeting the plaster on the ceilings of the offices, parlour, east and west corridors, the tuning-room and officers bed-rooms, where it is required.

"An expenditure of $100 for ornamental trees was also authorized, the number and kind of trees required, to be decided by the Principal, and a list furnished to the Bursar, so that he might make the purchase. An expenditure of $100 was also authorized for soil and labour in connection with the ornamental grounds.

"A set of iron treads for the rear stairs, to be purchased on the requisition of the Principal, at a cost not to exceed $10. The Principal was authorized to select and purchase additional models and specimens and other articles and educational appliances, to the extent of $125, and also obtain and submit to me, an estimate for glass cases to be placed in his office for the purpose of keeping the specimens and other educational appliances free from dust and dirt. The Bursar was also authorized to purchase, on requisition, a 24 inch circular saw and mandrill, and lumber for the frame thereof, cost of the whole not to exceed $25.00."

I again visited the Institution in August at the time of making enquiry respecting the purchase of the land contiguous to the Institution. I then found that the works previously authorized to be carried on under the supervision of the Principal, were making good progress, together with those in charge of the

Public Works Department, and that all would be so far completed as not to interfere with the occupancy of the building at the opening of the Session.

Annexed is the report made by me after visiting the Institution again, just after the close of the official year:—

"An inspection of this Institution was made by me on the 24th October, when I was accompanied by the Provincial Architect, in order, jointly, to examine improvements which have been in progress during the vacation term.

"The changes and improvements authorized in the interior of the building, have been carried out under the direction of the Principal, by the Institution carpenter, with little extra expenditure for hired help.

"The kitchen, third storey floors and stair landings, have all been laid with well-seasoned birch lumber. The ceilings in both upper and lower corridors in the east wing, a class-room, the officers' parlour, and a small portion of the west wing corridor, in all of which the plaster had given way, have been replaced with matched pine sheeting, oiled and varnished.

"The officers parlour has been grained also, and now presents a neat appearance.

"Quite a number of other desirable changes have been made, which will add to the comfort of the staff, and the convenience of the pupils. The male pupils' sanitarium has been removed to a room near the centre of the building, with a large sleeping apartment for the nurse, immediately opposite. The female officers' bath-rooms, etc., objectionally situated in the west wing, are now transformed into a dormitory for the youngest male pupils, who require the nurse's close supervision.

"The private rooms of the senior and junior literary masters are now both in the centre, the former of the class-rooms in the west wing, the latter of the boys' dormitories in the same wing. In the female pupils' quarters, their former bath-room has been converted into a dormitory for little girls. A large room, formerly formerly occupied by the latter, is now the female pupils' sanitarium, with a private room for the nurse, who previously slept in the sanitarium. The new resident music master now occupies, temporarily, a room in the lower corridor in the east wing, and, in order to provide suitable accommodation for him, it will be necessary to convert the late boys' bath and wash-rooms, on the dormitory floor in the west wing, into a bedroom, with the necessary furnishings, and the bath and wash-rooms on the lower floor, into music, practice and tuning-rooms. The Principal will supply me with an estimate of the probable cost of these alterations and furnishings, the work to be done by the Institution carpenter.

"The conversion of the old laundry into a spacious and airy store-room, with matron's pantry, and meat-room, with refrigerator, on either side, and a fine dry cellar below, is one of the most important of the recent improvements. It will assist the Bursar greatly in receiving and delivering supplies. The space for a six-foot passage is reserved to the rear of the building, and the need for using the kitchen as a throughfare is thus avoided.

"The temporary ice-house, constructed out of a portion of the woodshed, has answered its purpose fairly well, but a more substantial structure would be more serviceable.

"In addition to the improvements inside or immediately connected with the buildings, 1,000 to 1,100 feet of new walk six feet wide has replaced the old walk from the main front entrance of the Institution to the new eastern entrance to the grounds. From this point to the extreme south-east corner (400 feet) the old walk has been relaid on new sleepers, greater privacy for the female pupils (to whose use this walk is specially devoted) being secured by moving the walk some distance from the fence. Another 400 feet new walk has been laid, connecting the lodge gate with the new board walk made last year through the centre of the grounds, chiefly for the use of the male pupils. The laying of these walks was done by contract,

the prolonged illness of the Institution carpenter having incapacitated him from out-door work.

"The new bath-rooms, wash-rooms, and closets just completed by the Public Works Department were carefully inspected. They are tasteful erections, approached on the ground floor through the old rear entrances to the main building, and on the upper floor from the respective stair landings through an anteroom or corridor. The work appears to be well executed, and of its utility there can be no question. In consequence of these being projections from the main building, with a northern exposure, there will be a greater liability to stoppage and damage of the water-pipes by frost; storm sashes will therefore be provided, which may be sufficient protection and thereby avoid an outlay for additional heaters.

"The engineer was engaged during my visit in fitting up the old duplicate vertical boiler supplied last year, as a protection against any interruption of the water supply.

"The duplicate pump ordered by the Public Works Department had not arrived, but the old one has been thoroughly repaired during the vacation, so that there is little or no risk of the pumping machinery failing to keep in working order. The new tank in rear of the pumping-house, which receives the overflow from the spring, affords sufficient supply to allow the pumping to proceed continuously. The steam heating arrangements for the workshops were about completed. Four large radiators on each floor should be ample to keep the required temperature and avoid the great danger of fire caused by the use of stoves. A new heating-boiler has been supplied at the Principal's residence, the old one having been found insufficient and ill adapted for the purpose.

"To complete work already referred to, and put the Institution in the order and satisfactory condition which is desirable, some improvements are yet required, and the work which is most urgent is the construction of a sick ward or rooms for the female pupils. In the event of any severe illness or contagious disease appearing, there is no room with suitable appliances and with the necessary isolation which would be available without seriously interfering with the routine work of the Institution. As the number of female pupils in attendance is not likely to make any large addition to the building necessary for some time to come, it is desirable that some other arrangement to provide for the want should be made in the present building. The plan suggested by the Principal is to run a floor across the girls' large bedroom in the eastern wing, the new floor to be on a level with the music-hall floor, and divided into three or four rooms, to which approach could be had from the latter by taking in a small piece for a passageway off its north-east room, and if so constructed, the isolation of the sick ward would be complete. The water supply of the washroom attached to the present girls' large domitory could be connected with offices above, and the old discharge pipe from what was till recently the girls' bath-room and closets remains, so that the necessary appliances of a sick ward are already close at hand. The division of the large dormitory would be an advantage, as its size is now an inconvenience, and if ceiled, as proposed, the rooms would still be lofty enough for all purposes of ventilation. The rear rooms of the sick ward could be partially occupied by some of the female domestics who now sleep in the upper (music hall) storey.

"The ceiling of the visitors' reception room has partially fallen since the vacation, and the ceiling of the room above it threatens to give way. They will require to be replaced with matched sheeting, and probably the Principal's office may require the same attention. The floors of the scullery and rear hall are in a worn state; the floors of the pupils' dining-rooms are also considerably worn, and their replacement cannot be long deferred. The necessary displacement caused by these alterations, together with that already made by the improvements of the

present season, will neeessitate a considerable amount of painting, which should be done during next vacation. Estimates will, therefore, be made of the cost of the above work, in order that the expediency of undertaking them may be properly considered, and appropriations recommended if approved.

"The Principal called my attention to the state of several of the pianofortes, which require more or less repair. He was therefore requested to furnish an estimate of the cost of repairing each instrument, separately, with any other information regarding the instruments which he can supply.

"The pupils in actual attendance number 112—58 males and 54 females—and additions are expected in the near future.

"The health of those present was found to be good. No pupil was so far indisposed as to be absent from meals or roll call, although one or two constitutionally delicate, I found were partially relieved from attendance in the class or work-rooms.

"Important changes in the staff of officers have occurred since the close of the last session, but it is now complete, and in view of the educational attainments of those composing it, it is exceptionally strong. The numbers in the respective classes are at present somewhat smaller than last session, which is an advantage of no little importance to those in attendance, as closer attention can be paid to individual instruction. The classes are even now, however, fully up to the numbers approved by competent authorities in the education of the blind.

"The produce of the farm this season will be amply sufficient to meet the year's demands, both for domestic purposes and cattle feed, and the potato crop, I am informed, is exceedingly large. Although a smaller area was planted, yet the supply will be in excess of the wants of the Institution.

Maintenance Expenditures.

The following statement shews the total cost of maintaining the Institution during the past official year, under the different headings of the estimates, and also the cost, per pupil, under the same items:—

SERVICE.	Aggregate cost.	Cost per Pupil.
	$ c.	$ c.
Salaries and wages	14,553 54	105 46
Medicines and medical comforts	78 29	57
Butchers' meat, fish and fowl	3,161 68	22 91
Flour, bread, &c.	1,112 44	8 06
Butter and lard	1,196 15	8 67
Groceries	2,335 73	16 92
Fruit and vegetables	271 88	1 97
Bedding, clothing, and shoes	583 70	4 23
Fuel	4,537 96	32 88
Gas, oil, and matches	1,350 44	9 78
Laundry, soaps, and cleaning	331 78	2 40
Furniture, and furnishings	434 19	3 14
Farm, feed, and fodder	914 73	6 63
Repairs, and alterations	569 95	4 13
Advertising, printing, and stationery	595 03	4 31
Books, apparatus, and appliances	780 74	5 66
Unenumerated	928 48	6 73
Total	$33,736 71	$244 46

During the year ending 30th September, 1882, the aggregate expenditure was $34,846.15, and the cost, per pupil, $235.44. It will be thus seen, that while the

aggregate cost was less during the year just ended, the cost, per pupil, was higher This is at once explained by the fact, that in 1882 the average number in residence was 148, while in 1883 it was 138, and that the amount paid in salaries and wages and for heating and maintaining the building, must necessarily be as large in the one year as the other.

The report of the Principal, with statistical tables, and the Physician of the Institution, are hereto appended:—

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

October 1st, 1883.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, ESQ.,
Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities:

SIR,—I have the honour, as Principal of the Ontario Institution for the Blind, to submit my report for the year ending September 30, 1883.

NUMBER OF PUPILS.

The tendency, alluded to in former years, towards a decrease in the number of pupils, has further manifested itself during the past year. In the session of 1881-2, the average attendance was 149, eighty-five males and sixty-four females. In the session of 1882-3, the average attendance was 138, seventy-six males and sixty-two females. The total number of pupils on the register on the 30th September, 1883, was 112, fifty-eight males and fifty-four females, to whom will probably be added from five to ten other old pupils, whose return may yet be looked for, and also some new pupils heard from as the session advances. Three new applications for admission are in my hands at the time of writing. It is likely, therefore, that the average for the current session will be about 120.

The total number of pupils in attendance at any time during the session of 1882-3 was 147, eighty males and sixty-seven females. Of these, ninety-nine had returned to the Institution and were in attendance on the 30th September, 1883. The remaining forty-eight will be accounted for as under:—

1. Graduates of the session of 1882-3:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
In Literature, Music, and Pianoforte Tuning	1	0	1
" Literature, Music, and Industrial Work	0	1	1
" Literature and Music	2	0	2
" Literature and Tuning	1	0	1
" Literature and Industrial Work	0	1	1
" Literature	4	1	5
" Industrial Work	1	4	5
Total	9	7	16
2. Pupils who completed their courses with partial results	3	1	4
3. Left Institution with restored or greatly improved sight, and therefore no longer eligible	1	2	3
4. Excluded on account of mental incapacity	3	0	3
5. Removed to United States	1	1	2
6. Cause of absence not yet reported	5	1	6
7. Detained at home by ill health, return uncertain	0	2	2
8. Removed permanently last session in consequence of ill health	3	2	5
9. Expected to return shortly	2	3	5
10. Excluded for general bad conduct and dishonesty	1	0	1
11. Expelled last session for misconduct	1	0	1
	29	19	48

The pupils now on the register who were not in attendance last session are represented by the following:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
New pupils	4	7	11
A former pupil detained at home last session	1	0	1
A former pupil who had graduated in 1881-2 re-admitted for special object	1	0	1
	6	7	13

It will be observed that sixteen pupils graduated last session in one or more of the several branches of instruction open to them. Their training and education in their respective courses had, in all these cases, been thorough, and the proficiency attained was well up to the required standard. It does not, however, follow that a higher standard may not be demanded in future in some departments, particularly with the view of qualifying our graduates for the duty of imparting instruction to others.

The four pupils described as having completed their courses with partial results only, were 27, 23, 33, and 26 years of age respectively, and their terms of instruction had extended over eight, eleven, five, and six sessions. They had all made as much progress as, having regard to their capacity, was to be expected from them, and no practical advantage was to be gained by their longer continuance at the Institution.

The three pupils who left with restored or improved sight were, with two others, sent at the end of last session to the Eye Infirmary, at Toronto, where they received treatment with the gratifying results mentioned.

The pupils excluded by reason of mental incapacity had respectively been several sessions in the Institution. In addition to the hopelessness of any effort to teach them any one of the industrial callings to which pupils here are trained, and their inability to receive more than the most elementary education in literary classes, there were reasons which became stronger as these pupils grew older for removing them from association with juniors. Reference to the cases of pupils removed in consequence of ill-health, and also to those excluded for misconduct, will be made elsewhere.

It may not be improper here to notice briefly, the reasons already referred to in my former reports, for the very considerable decrease in the numbers of the pupils in attendance as compared with those of some previous years. Previous to the session of 1881-2 admission had been granted with little hesitation to persons over twenty-one years of age wherever it appeared likely the applicant would receive substantial benefit from entering the Institution. But this policy, well-intentioned, and for a time almost unavoidable as it was, had grave disadvantages. These so impressed themselves on the minds of the Government and Inspector that, since the time mentioned it has only been after most careful inquiry and consideration that authority has been given to the Principal to receive, as a pupil, any applicant whose age has exceeded twenty-one years. The result has been that, in three sessions the admissions of over-age pupils have been only five in number. On the other hand, every over-age pupil who has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction, or who has shown inability to profit further by remaining, has been excluded. The stringent application of this rule is absolutely necessary if the real character and object of this Institution are to be maintained. The duty of excluding persons whose capacity is limited and whose means of support are often far from ample is, in many cases, a painful one. But any other course would simply result in converting the Institution into an asylum for the helpless or indigent, and in crowding it with persons who, while they made no progress themselves, would materially interfere with the efficient education of younger and more intelligent pupils. Still it is pleasant to reflect that, even where the knowledge acquired has fallen short of the graduating standard, the habits of self-helpfulness, of order and of inquiry gained here, all go far with the little stock of information to lighten the burden of an otherwise cheerless existence, and to make their possessor all the more respected and self-respecting.

It will be observed that the new pupils admitted so far are thirteen in number. Of these eleven come to us for the first time. Two former pupils not in attendance last ses-

sion also re-appear on the register. One of the latter had graduated very creditably in literature and vocal music in 1882; but, finding some difficulty in turning his acquirements in these branches to profitable account, he was, as a special favour, allowed to return in the hope that he might be able to qualify himself to earn a livelihood as a pianoforte tuner. The ages of the new pupils are as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Five years	1	0	1
Six "	0	2	2
Eleven "	1	0	1
Thirteen "	0	1	1
Sixteen "	0	2	2
Seventeen "	0	1	1
Eighteen "	1	0	1
Nineteen "	0	1	1
Twenty-one years	1	0	1
	4	7	11

There are on the register at the present time twenty-five pupils, eighteen males and seven females, whose respective ages exceed twenty-one years. Of these, seven—five males and two females—will probably leave the Institution at the close of the present session. The total number of pupils then retiring may be increased to a dozen from the ranks of those under twenty-one years of age. From the information at present at command, I think it may reasonably be expected that the annual additions from new comers will not be less than fifteen. That number will be reached and probably be exceeded this session. From these data I arrive at the conclusion that the minimum number of our pupil population has now been reached, and that an increase rather than a further decrease, may be looked for. Meantime, as a consequence of the policy pursued in this regard, the Institution should become more distinctly and exclusively than ever a school for the education and training of blind youths.

In past years, the Province has been, from time to time, pretty well canvassed, with the view of seeking out young persons eligible for admission, and explaining to their friends the objects of the Institution. But for this means, the great benefits conferred by the Institution on many who have left as well as others who still remain here, would have been altogether lost. And even to-day, after the Institution has been ten years or more in full operation, the ignorance of people as to its precise character, is astonishing. During the last two vacations, however, our officers' visits have been chiefly confined to applicants for admission, whose cases have demanded preliminary enquiry, or to others, respecting whom, some special information has reached us. Such questions as the mental capacity, health, or degree of sight possessed by the applicant, are often only to be answered satisfactorily after a personal interview. Without recommending the resumption of the former practice of a personal canvass on a large scale, I am of opinion that some means should be taken to supply its place. After due consideration, I respectfully advise, that a circular containing the necessary particulars should be sent to every medical practitioner in the Province, inviting the members of the profession to make the aims and objects of the Institution, as well as the conditions on which pupils are admitted, known in quarters where such information is likely to be useful. These gentlemen, from their daily observation, their close intercourse with families, and their skill and habit of discrimination, not to mention their humane interest in all forms of human suffering and affliction, would seem more than any other class likely to assist us in extending, as widely as possible, the benefits of the Institution.

The Staff.

The cordial assistance received by the Principal from the several members of the Staff, has again to be gratefully acknowledged. Several vacancies have occurred, making new appointments necessary in the literary, musical, and industrial departments, but while

the loss of experienced teachers who have faithfuly discharged their duties, and laboured assiduously to qualify themselves for their special work, is a subject of some regret, I have not a little confidence that the staff of the present session, will be found, at least, as strong and efficient as at any period in the history of the Institution.

The literary staff consists of Mr. Walter Wickens, Miss Mary A. Walsh, Miss Margaret E. Walshe, Miss Catherine Gillin, and Mr. Wm. A. Shannon. The last named gentleman gives instruction to the pupils in calisthenic exercises, and has special charge of the male pupils out of class hours. Mr. Shannon's association with the pupils at these times, and the oversight he exercises, have a very decidedly beneficial effect.

The staff of music teachers consists of Mr. Wallace P. Day, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Miss M. A. Callaghan, Mrs. Dr. Howson, Miss Emma Moore, Miss Nettie McNish, and Professor George Baker. Mrs. Howson, who instructs the classes in vocal music, and Professor Baker, attend at stated times only, all the other officers mentioned reside in the Institution. The appointment of a resident male teacher in the musical department, was, of no little importance, having regard to the claims of many of the senior male pupils upon the personal attention of their instructor during all hours of the day, and especially during those devoted to practice and private studies.

Mr. W. G. Raymond, a former pupil of the Institution, now resident in Brantford, continues to give instructions in pianoforte tuning. Mr. Thos. Truss is still the efficient conductor of the willow-work industrial department, and Miss Loveys, of the sewing-room. Miss Mary Rich has succeeded Miss Algie, who, for some years, had very successfully instructed pupils in hand and machine knitting.

The Literary Classes.

The report of Dr. Kelly and Mr. Wilkinson, M. A., on their periodical visit and examination of the pupils in the literary classes, presents a very full and detailed account of the work of the session, and progress made in this department. It is gratifying to every members of the staff to know that, in the latter respect, the examiners were able to report favourably. No one, I believe, could have winced or grumbled if these experinced educationists had felt it necessary to be more severely critical.

The weeding-out process applied to senior pupils, has obviously tended to place the classes, as a whole, at some comparative disadvantage. But the steady, continuous teaching for nine months at a stretch, with scarcely an interruption, of pupils who are rarely absent from their places in class, and who have the ever ready assistance of their teachers at all times, whether in school or out of it, tells wonderfully even in the least hopeful material, and the steady advancement of the classes towards the limits bounding their studies for the session, is very interesting to witness. As it is intended that this report shall present, as nearly as possible, a picture of the every day life of the Institution in session, the "Limit Table" of the literary classes for the current term, may be of interest. It is as follows:—

Subject.	*Class.*	*Limits*
Arithmetic (Four Classes)	A....	Fractions, Percentage, Simple Interest, Areas of Surface and Solids, Analytical Probleus.
" "	B....	Denominate Numbers, Compound Rules, Multiples and Measures, Simple Fractions.
" "	C....	Notation and Numeration, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division, Weights and Measures, Reduction, Multiplication Tables to 20x20.
" "	D....	Notation and Numeration, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication Tables to 20x20.

Subject.	*Class.*	*Limits.*
Grammar (Four Classes)	A	Orthography, Etymology, Syntax, History of the Language.
" "	B	Simple and Complex Sentences, Analysis of Parsing, Correction of Errors.
" "	C	Orthography, Etymology, Parts of Speech, Inflection, Construction of Sentences, Analysis.
" "	D	Orthography, Etymology, Classification and Inflection, Formation of Simple Sentences.
Geography (Four Classes)	A	Europe in full, Asia and Africa in outline, Review of North and South America.
" "	B	North and South America, Countries (particularly United States and West Indies), Review of Dominion.
" "	C	Physical Geography, Dominion of Canada in full, Review of Ontario.
" "	D	Physical Geography, Dominion of Canada (Divisions and Outline), Ontario in full, Railroads, etc.
Reading (Three Classes)	A	Reading in Point and Line type, Spelling, Definitions, Easy Derivations.
" "	B	1st Division, Readers 5 and 6; 2nd Division, Readers 3 and 4.
" "	C	Cards, Readers 1 and 2, Spelling by Phrases.
Literature (One Class)		Tennyson, Longfellow, "Julius Cesar," Review of English Literature from Chaucer to the present time.
Writing (Four Classes)	A	Pencil Writing with Grooved Cards, Letters, Business Forms, Dictation Exercises, Construction of Sentences, Composition in Line and Point.
" "	B C D	Various Grades from lowest stage upwards.
English History (One Class)		History of England from 50 B.C., particular reference to growth of Parliament and social condition of the people.
Physiology and Natural History (One Class)		Structure of the Human Body, Classification of Animals, Habits, etc.
Object Teaching (Two Classes)	A	Attributes of Common Objects, Parts, Uses, and Habits of Animals, Vegetable Kingdom, Common Grains, Spices, Trees, etc.
" "	B	Lessons in Form, Square, Circle, etc., Size, Measure, Weight, Simple Objects.
Chemistry (One Class)		Chemistry as applied to Common Things, Hygiene, &c.

The examiners suggest the formation of a class in Canadian History, which subject has been taught very successfully during some former sessions. Should the materials out of which to form such a class this session be forthcoming, it will be constituted. But from the temporary discontinuance of this class it must not be inferred that the import-

ance of our pupils being informed of the history of their own country is undervalued. The only question really is, at what period during their usually protracted course they shall acquire that information. The history of Canada does not cover so large a field as to require the pupil to devote to it a lengthened period of study.

With a full staff of teachers it has been found possible this season so to arrange the classes, that while they are more evenly graded, the number of pupils in no one class is inconveniently large. Having regard to the methods pursued in the education of the blind it is clear that classes must be limited if the teaching is to be thorough and effective.

The purchase last year of quite a considerable number of specimens for the use of the natural history, physiology, and "object" classes, has greatly facilitated the work of instruction in these branches. I have recently, with your approval, given a further order for appliances of this description, and in time, I trust, our museum will contain all that is necessary for object teaching.

The examiners again call attention to the want of a properly constructed gymnasium for the systematic physical exercise of the pupils. I can but once more echo their representation and reiterate the assertion that no institution for the education and training of the blind can pretend to completeness that is wanting in this most essential means of ensuring their healthy and vigorous physical development.

The Music Classes.

As in the case of the literary classes the report of the examiner will afford very full information of the progress of the pupils in music. At the present time there are sixty-six pupils, 23 males and 43 females, who receive instruction in either vocal or instrumental music, or both. With the above number of pupils, and a full staff of teachers, it has been found possible to reduce the respective classes of advanced students to two members, so that ample time is afforded for their class instruction.

The vocal class, in two divisions—senior and junior—numbers thirty-eight pupils, and is conducted by Mrs. Dr. Howson, who has succeeded Miss Nolan, on that lady's departure for an extended visit to Europe.

The piano classes number thirteen with two pupils, and eleven with three pupils in each, under four teachers.

Three pupils at present receive instruction on the pipe-organ; one of the pipe-organ pupils of last session having graduated, and another removed to the United States. One or two additions to the pipe-organ classes will probably be made during the session.

There are three reed-organ classes, each of two pupils; a violin class under Prof. Baker, of five pupils; two classes, conducted by Mr. Wallace P. Day, in harmony, including together twelve pupils, and a class in point print music writing, conducted by Miss Moore, of seven pupils.

Two pupils in the piano-forte tuning department graduated last session, and were engaged by Messrs. Mason and Risch, of Toronto, who have now three ex-pupils of this Institution in their establishment. The tuning class at present consist of eight pupils, of whom several give excellent promise of becoming successful piano-forte tuners, while others must be regarded as on trial only. The addition to our stock of instruments of one of Schumacker's Concert Grand Trichord Pianos, and of another piano of Canadian manufacture has been most acceptable. The state of our pianos, as a whole, however, is not what could be desired. This does not arise from any neglect or improper usage, but from the incessant wear and tear to which the instruments—some of them not originally of the very best quality—are subjected. Two of the old instruments used for the elementary instruction of the tuning class are quite worn out and might as well be got rid of. A corresponding number of those now in use for music practice are ripe for the tuner's operating room. A liberal appropriation for the thorough repair of our old pianos, and the purchase of at least two new ones, will be desirable.

While the number of graduates from the pipe-organ class will always be limited, every session, gives increased proof of the advantages the Institution derives from its purchase. Its effect on the vocal efforts of the pupils in connection with their devotional exercises is very marked, while the pleasure afforded by our periodical concerts in the Music Hall is

much enhanced by the possession of this very fine instrument. In order to improve the pupils, whether attenders of the vocal class or not, in congregational singing, and to add from time to time to the stock of hymns stored in their memories, an hour is devoted every Saturday evening by members of the music staff to the instruction of the whole of the Protestant pupils in hymnology. This arrangement also enables the vocal class to devote its whole attention to studies with which no denominational distinctions interfere. The want of a motor for the pipe-organ is still felt, but, up to the present time, no effectual means of overcoming this difficulty has presented itself.

Industrial Departments.

The Willow Shop.

The reduction of the number of willow workers at the close of the Session of 1881-2 rather discouraged expectations of great success in this department in 1882-3. Not a single pupil remained so far advanced as to complete his course of training at the close of the last named session. It will be seen, however, by the report of the Instructor, that a very satisfactory amount of work was done and good progress made. This session, I have no doubt, two, if not three, pupils will be claimants of graduate's outfits. Mr. Truss's report follows :—

To the Principal:

Sir,—I have the honour to submit my report upon the operations of the workshop during the year ending September 30th, 1883 :—

Starting at the commencement of this session with a reduced number of pupils, as compared with the previous session, capable of making saleable willow-ware, the output of such work during the session is somewhat reduced as compared with the session of 1882-3, at the close of which four of our most advanced pupils graduated, and this, to a very perceptible extent, weakened our force of efficient workers. The object, however, during this session, as in previous sessions, has been not to attempt a display of our work by showing a large cash balance in favour of the Industrial Department; this could be done, but it would be accomplished at the expense of the thorough training of our pupils.

The list of articles which we teach our pupils to make is composed of fifty different kinds of baskets and chairs. We aim to take each pupil through the whole course, and never allow a demand or an order for any particular class of goods to draw our attention from our main object. During the past session, I have frequently refused orders for reticule baskets, not because our pupils could not make them, but because they had already learned to make them, and had advanced to other kinds of work. The filling of orders for such work as our pupils could manufacture perfectly and with rapidity would, no doubt, enable us to make a very gratifying financial report, but, as I have already remarked, it could only be accomplished at the cost of their thorough training.

The case of a blind apprentice learning a trade is quite different from that of a seeing apprentice. The former spends, perhaps, five or six sessions at this institution; the time is short, and if he is to receive that instruction which will enable him to make the variety of articles which the very often limited demand for any one particular article in the neighborhood in which he intends to reside requires that he should be able make, his time at this institution should be devoted to obtaining as varied and as large a knowledge of his trade as possible. The necessity for this is further shown when we remember that the blind apprentice very often has to depend for life upon the stock of knowledge and training received at this institution. With the seeing apprentice it is quite different; he often travels from city to city, working in the different shops, observing and learning the different kinds of work, and is continually adapting himself by such observation to the requirements of his trade.

In view of this difficulty which blind workmen labour under, I would recommend that occasionally as new kinds of work are introduced into the market, (such, for example, as the rattan chairs, which seeing willow-workers are now making), that we re-admit some of our workshop graduates for a short time. (one month would be sufficient for them), to

learn to adapt themselves to this kind of work. During the last session I taught six of our pupils to make the rattan chairs, and, with your permission, I invited one of our graduates to return to the institution for a brief visit, and he succeeded in a very short time in learning to make them. I think it would be to the interest of our graduates if some of them were allowed to return for this purpose. The re-admissions that would be sought on this ground would not be numerous, for the very encouraging reports we are continually receiving from our graduates of their success is a sufficient indication that the number of applicants for such a privilege would be very limited, but still I believe in individual cases it would be well to invite them to return for the purpose I have indicated.

Pupils' Vacation Work.

According to our usual custom, at the close of last session, we distributed 1,000 lbs. of willow as a gift among thirteen of our workshop pupils, for the purpose of keeping them employed during their vacation, and giving them an opportunity of putting into practice the lessons of self-help which we endeavour to impart. The results were as follows: aside from the fact that these pupils were engaged in light and pleasant labour, (a great boon to the blind), during their vacation, their earnings amounted to the sum of $416.70, as the following list will show:—

C. R.	$69 00	F. G.	$20 00
J. B.	42 00	J. C.	24 00
J. L.	35 00	H. S.	9 00
C. A.	40 00	G. D.	19 50
W. T.	23 00	B. C.	22 00
F. N.	40 00	W. B.	41 45
H. L.	31 75		
			$416 70

The following statement shews the amount of saleable work made last session by pupils during their nine months' training at the Institution:—

Sales by trade instructor	$568 55
Rattan furniture supplied to the Institution	102 00
Work on hand but not sold	200 00
	$870 55

Institution Willow Beds.

It is satisfactory to know that the new willow bed which you authorized me to plant two years ago now gives promise of yielding an ample supply of willow for the use of the workshops, and unless it be for the providing of the usual supply to our graduates and the vacation grants, the institution will not require to make further purchases of willow for some time to come.

Graduates as Instructors.

In regard to one of our workshop graduates who was engaged by the Halifax Institution as their trade instructor, it is satisfactory to know that this young man gave in that capacity great satisfaction, and that although he has left that Institution to start in business for himself, which he expects will prove more profitable, another of our graduates has been offered, and has accepted the position, and is also giving satisfaction.

Pupils now in the Work Shop.

The present session has commenced with twenty-five pupils in the workshop, each one shewing a desire for progress and industry, and exhibiting an aptitude in learning which indicates that the present session's work will equal, if it does not exceed, any in the past. The weeding out at the close of last session of a number of pupils who, through slowness of

habit or weakness of intellect were incapable of receiving instruction, but, at the same time, had a decidedly injurious effect on the conduct of others, has already had a beneficial result, which I trust will continue.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Thos. Truss,
Trade Instructor.

Hardly anything in the Instructor's report is more encouraging than the holiday achievements of the most advanced pupils. The healthy and beneficial influence on these young men of partial occupation while at home spending their three months' vacation, can hardly be over-estimated.

The number of pupils in the willow-shop this session is twenty-four,' and these are, with scarcely an exception, effective workers. I cordially endorse the recommendation of Mr. Truss, that ex-pupils, of good character, engaged in the willow-work business, should be occasionally allowed to re-enter for a short period, in order to acquaint themselves with new models, and thus obtain the same footing as our present learners.

The Sewing Room.

In this department, thirty-seven pupils—one male and thirty-six females—are receiving instruction. Advanced pupils are kept tolerably busy with work required for clothing and other domestic purposes, their remaining time being devoted to making up material for sale to visitors. The examination for prizes at the close of last session was again conducted by a committee of lady officers, the correctness of whose decision was, I believe, fully recognized. The prize for machine sewing was carried off by the male competitor.

The Knitting Room.

The pupils learning either hand or machine-knitting number thirty-one, two males and twenty-nine females.

Hitherto the bulk of the work in this department has been disposed of in executing orders from other public institutions, and, in this way, 2,260 pairs of knitted goods were sold last session, the pupils receiving a small sum for each pair turned out of hand.

But the introduction of hand knitting, as a means of industrial employment for the inmates of the Reformatory for Females and the Lunatic Asylums, has, temporarily closed these outlets for our products. I have already represented to you, that the simplicity of the knitting machine used for socks and stockings, and the regularity of work of this kind so admirably adapts it to the capacity of the blind, as to make machine-knitting a most important resource for our female pupils, who have to earn a livelihood for themselves, either wholly or in part, and, while not for one moment begrudging the advantages of instruction in any useful and available shape to others, I must strenuously urge upon you the necessity of securing, for our blind girls, at least as much work as may be required to give them the practice and experience, without which, they can never become expert machine-knitters. This session, as many as four pupils are only beginners, and none possess machines of their own. Our production of knitted goods will, in any case, be limited, and our orders, therefore, to secure sufficient employment for the purposes of instruction, need not be very large.

Bead and Fancy Work.

For the past two sessions, the bead and fancy-work classes have been conducted by one of the literary staff. The young lady who undertook this duty last session, was, much to my regret, disabled by illness from returning to her duty at the close of the late vacation. I have, therefore, placed the pupils in those branches under the instructresses of the industrial department. Miss Loveys, now teaches the bead-work class in the sewing-room, and Miss

Rich, the crochet and other fancy work, in the knitting-room. The bead-work class consists of nine, and the crochet-class of five pupils, all females. It must not be supposed, however, that these numbers at all represent the interest taken by the pupils as a whole, in these descriptions of work. On the contrary, they rather indicate that so large a number have already attained some proficiency in one or other or both, as to make it unnecessary for them to devote time in class hours for their acquirement. Several male pupils as well as females, devote a portion of their leisure to bead-work, and of the latter a large proportion to fancy work of various kinds.

The Library.

The library is now in charge of Mr. Shannon, who is assisted at the weekly distribution of books to the pupils by the lady on duty. The additions to the stock of embossed books during the past year have included: Tennyson's "Idyll's of the King,"—"Swiss Family Robinson," "St. Mark's Gospel," "Silas Marner," by George Eliot, Macaulay's "Warren Hastings,"—"Picciola," (the two last named in point print) Thackeray's "Leetures on the English Humorists," and several volumes of an excellent work now issuing from the Boston press called the Youth's Library.

Health.—Discipline.

The length and severity of last winter occasioned no little anxiety to all in charge of this Institution. The enormous falls of snow and heavy drifts occurring at short intervals for several months, blocked up our plank walks and kept the snow plough and shovel constantly at work to maintain communication with the outside world and give our pupils a chance for out-door exercise. Happily we escaped with the slightest touch of epidemic disease. One junior male pupil had measles in a very decided, although favourable form, during the month of December, and a female pupil a much less severe attack of the same complaint in April. That, on neither occasion, a disorder so very contagious in its character, was communicated to others was indeed remarkable. Our excellent hospital ward in the new part of the West wing for male pupils, afforded a ready means of isolation in the first instance mentioned, and, once established there with a competent hired nurse, and all needful accommodation, the sick boy was as completely separated as could be desired. But, when the second case of measles occurred, the want of a sick ward for female pupils was very forcibly illustrated. Every dormitory in the girls' wing was full and isolation there was impossible. It happened, however, that one of our officers' rooms in the centre of the building was, just then, vacant and this was converted into a temporary hospital for the invalid or others who might be similarly affected. As already stated no other case occurred, but the isolation secured was isolation rather in name than in reality. I trust that a sick ward for female pupils will not much longer be classed among the pressing needs of the Institution. Dr. Corson, in his report, will doubtless allude to the cases of pupils whose state of health caused their removal during last session. The young girl who was the first to leave, had returned, much against the wish of her friends who had already felt anxious on her account. The disease (consumption) developed rapidly and her death ensued shortly after her removal to her home. It had long been evident that something radically wrong existed in the constitution of one of our male pupils, about sixteen years of age, and, at Dr. Corson's suggestion, he was sent, under proper care, to the General Hospital at Toronto where death, in a few weeks, terminated his career. Another youth of considerable intellectual promise, but whose attendance at the Institution had been frequently interrupted by a decided tendency to pulmonary disease, also failed so rapidly that his removal appeared desirable. He was safely transferred, in charge of an officer, to his friends' care, and I have not since been informed of his condition. An adult female pupil suffering from a malady which only a surgical operation could cure, yielded, at last, reluctantly to my advice and returned home. The appearance of spinal curvature in a young female pupil led to her being admitted, under your authority, as a free patient into the General Hospital at Toronto, where she received treat-

ment which I have reason to believe, will enable her before very long to return to Institution.

The real proof, however, of the generally healthy condition of such a family as this, is to be found in the ordinary daily condition of the pupils as a whole. The attendance at the breakfast table, and at morning roll call, is the best proof, and I am glad to be able to say has generally afforded evidence sufficiently reassuring at this point. I attribute this largely to our very healthful situation, good ventilation in the building, plain food in sufficient quantity, attention to personal cleanliness, out-door exercise, and also, in no small degree, to the daily and patient observation and attention of a thoughtful and experienced physician, who knows the constitution of every pupil, and allows no disease to develop itself that can be nipped in the bud by timely and judicious treatment.

During the greater part of last session I had no cause to complain of the general conduct of the pupils, but, as the vacation approached, some signs of insubordination presented themselves in certain senior male pupils and these, on one occasion, assumed the form of open resistance to the authority of the officers. I deemed it my duty, while fully conscious of the responsibility involved in such a step, to forthwith remove three of the most conspicuous offenders from the Institution. One, a young man of twenty six, and whose conduct had been on previous occasions the reverse of satisfactory, was permanently excluded, the two others have, with your approval, been allowed to return, and I do not doubt, will conduct themselves well in future. After dealing with the three offenders above mentioned, it was my pleasant duty, in the course of a very few days, to report to you that every other pupil connected with the disorderly proceedings referred to had voluntarily expressed proper regret and been restored to full privileges.

While misconduct of any kind must be corrected, I do not, after much serious consideration, desire to withdraw anything I have said heretofore of the discipline and methods to be pursued, in my opinion, in dealing with the blind. At the same time, it must not be forgotten, that, in every Institution for the Blind, so called, is a large percentage of pupils, who, if their vision is so defective as to make them eligible for admission for educational purposes, can see well enough to commit any amount of mischief, or to take the lead in any disorder. The boy mentioned as having been excluded for dishonesty, had plenty of sight to commit an act, for which, if prosecuted, he might have received a severe sentence. Yet pupils of the class I have alluded to are all classed as blind in the popular estimation, and claim a share with the totally blind of public sympathy. The difficulties arising in the management of the latter, are traceable chiefly to their extremely limited experience, and want of contact with the world. Their errors mostly arise from mistakes, either as to facts or reasons, and are, of course, influenced by the temper, disposition, and previous experience of the pupil. But, while all this suggests a certain line of thought, and demands a particular system of treatment, I doubt if any school for the seeing in the Province, gives its head less trouble on the score of conduct, than do the young people under my care. To a very large proportion, I have not had, in more than two years, to administer a rebuke or even a caution. As a rule, they are singularly docile, respectful and truthful, while their attention to their instructors, and orderly behaviour in class, can hardly be surpassed. I may say, in closing my allusions to this subject, that a strong and efficient staff of officers is one of the best guarantees of a peaceful and harmonious session. The advantage of both Principal and staff, having time to attend to the individual requirements of the pupils, whether intellectual, moral or physical, is of incalculable advantage in dealing with the blind.

Acknowledgments.

I have once more gratefully to acknowledge the kind attentions of the clergy and citizens of Brantford generally, to the pupils of this Institution. The various courtesies extended to the latter, the attendance of ministers at our Sunday services, and their personal interest in all that concerns our young people, cannot be too highly appreciated. I trust that we have been able, in a small degree, to reciprocate these kind attentions, and to give some pleasure to our friends when they kindly afford us the opportunity.

Internal Improvements.

The construction of a new boiler-house, engine-room and laundry, last year, has placed the old laundry and boiler-rooms at our disposal. We are now, consequently, able to congratulate ourselves upon the possession of a fine, airy, Bursar's store-room, well lighted and fitted, accessible from outside as well as from within, with the Matron's pantry for the reception of daily supplies contiguous on the one hand, and the meat-room, with refrigerator for meat, milk and butter on the other, and a large amount of cellarage below.

The kitchen has been newly-floored with birch lumber. The upper floors in the centre of the building, have been relaid with the same material, as also have been the stair-landings and some other places. About 4,000 feet of birch has been consumed in these operations.

The process of replacing the ceilings, formerly of plaster, with matched pine lumber, has also been continued. The officers' parlour, a class-room, both corridors (upper and lower) with east wing, and a portion of the lower corridor in the west wing, have been thus renewed. A large portion of this work has been done by the Institution carpenter.

The erection, by the Public Works Department, of bath-rooms, wash-rooms and other offices, as annexes to the main building, is an improvement of the very greatest value. It excludes what, at times, was an unhealthful nuisance, while affording the pupils access without exposure to the weather. The old bath-room in the east wing, and the room used by the female officers in the west wing for the same purposes, are now converted into dormitories for the youngest pupils, who need the nurses' special oversight, and separation at night, on that account, from older children.

I have only awaited the completion of the works just mentioned, to seek your authority to convert the former boys' bath-rooms on the dormitory flat, into a room for our new resident male teacher, and those on the lower flat into music-rooms. These improvements, too, have enabled me already to secure additional accommodation for music classes in the east wing. All the female officers are now lodged in rooms in the centre of the building, contiguous to each other, while the male officers will have their respective private rooms, in the neighbourhood of the boys' dormitories or class-rooms, a decided advantage in many respects. The boys' sanitarium now occupies a more convenient position, with a suitable private room for the boys' nurse just opposite. The present girls' sanitarium is also in a better room, and the girls' nurse, who formerly slept in the sanitarium, enjoys the seclusion and privacy she is entitled to.

The whole of the male pupils are now lodged on one floor without the least crowding, the old dormitories in the music-hall flat being converted into music-rooms. This change has some very decided advantages.

The steam-heating apparatus supplied to the workshop will enable us to dispense altogether, I trust, with the use of stoves, an ever present source of danger.

Improvements in the Grounds.

The relaying with new lumber of some 1,200 feet of sidewalk, six feet wide, and the repair of the remaining distance, about 400 feet, leading to the old south-eastern entrance to the grounds, has been a great boon to our female pupils, who use this fine stretch for recreation. The lower section has been shifted several feet further from the eastern boundary fence, the girls being thus secured greater privacy and freedom from intrusion.

The broad walk constructed last year through the centre of the grounds has been continued to the lodge-gate, and is the road taken by the male pupils when they visit the city. It is to be hoped that the liberality of our local civic authorities will, ere long, induce them to lay down the very short piece of sidewalk needed to connect our walks with theirs on Palmerston Avenue.

The male pupils also use the centre walk for recreation, and have now, starting from the rear of the west wing and terminating at the front centre of the main building, a continuous walk (some 2,500 feet of which is plank) fully two-thirds of a mile in length and all within the grounds.

A number of evergreens and some deciduous trees have been planted this season, and a large proportion are doing well. The growth of many of the trees originally planted

somewhat closely has led to crowding in places, and next spring it will be necessary to effect a considerable amount of moving and transplanting if the season proves favorable. A great deal has also been done this year in pruning both the ornamental and fruit trees with good effect. Owing to the abundance of rain, trees of all classes have made rapid growth this season, and the grounds, especially during the earlier summer months, have presented a really beautiful appearance.

The Farm.

The past season has, on the whole, been favorable for our crops with one or two exceptions. Our light and thirsty soil was greatly assisted by the frequently recurring rainfalls during the months of June and July. Potatoes are a most abundant crop, and, although a smaller area than usual was planted, the supply will be in excess of the demand.

Field roots grew fairly for some time but were choked in their development, first by a long spell of dry weather, and more recently by severe frosts. The roots will be small in consequence, but the crop being regular, and the sample of good quality, our needs will be fully satisfied. A considerable quantity of green fodder has been cut during the late summer, and fed to the cows in the paddock, adjoining the farm-yard, where they can have exercise and are at the same time fairly protected from the sun. Our farm hands have had a busy time combatting the too luxuriant growth of weeds which the rains greatly assisted, but the land, as a whole, has been cleaner, and the weeds have been more effectually checked, than in any previous year. The condition of the farm stock and poultry has been satisfactory.

Purchase of Additional Land.

Having received information that the land, some forty acres in extent, now farmed by Mr. Wm. Harrington, and contiguous to our northern and western boundaries, was in the market, and that speculators contemplated purchasing it with the view of selling it in small building lots, I felt it my duty to recommend to the Government that steps should be at once taken to protect the Institution from so undesirable an encroachment upon our present comparative privacy and isolation. The whole of our buildings, as you are aware, lie in the north-western section of the grounds, and are only separated by a narrow private lane from the land in question. No one acquainted with Institutions of this kind would doubt the necessity of the step suggested. The expropriation of about twenty acres, representing the portion of the land lying nearest to our fences, followed, and the necessary protection from intrusion, has been secured.

Further Improvements Needed.

The adoption of an improved system of heating in the old building I understand to be only a question of time and financial arrangements. To have to use supplementary means of heating the building, when our steam-heat producing power is all but unlimited, cannot certainly be defended as either convenient or economical.

The painting of the external woodwork of the whole building is urgently needed, as also is the pointing, in many places, of the masonry.

The repairs of the roof of the old building recently effected, although temporarily satisfactory, are not likely permanently to exclude the water during heavy storms. A new roof with considerably increased pitch, can alone provide an enduring remedy.

The enlargement of the bakery, now far too small and in a dilapidated condition, an the removal of the carpenter into more roomy quarters, will be accomplished with but little expense. These changes formed part of the plans connected with the construction of the new boiler-house and laundry.

A good brick ice-house, in place of the present woodenshed, would be a desirable improvement.

The enlargement of the barn to enable us to purchase hay in larger bulk and to take advantage of the market has been previously recommended and would be desirable.

I have already alluded to the urgent necessity for a hospital ward in the female pupils' wing. I respectfully invite your attention to this matter with the view of devising some means by which, at a moderate cost, this desideratum may be secured.

The want of a gymnasium has been already adverted to. Whatever good reasons may defer its construction only ignorance of what the blind most need could permanently obstruct or prevent it.

The dining-rooms and one or two class-rooms badly need re-flooring. A few rooms also remain in which matched-board ceilings should be substituted for lath and plaster.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. H. Dymond,
Principal.

Statistics for the year ending 30th September, 1883.

I.—NATIONALITIES.

—	No.	—	No.
American	3	Irish	40
Canadian	55	Norwegian	1
English	35	Scotch	16
French	2	Wendish	3
German	3	Unknown	1
Indian	1	Total	160

II.—RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.

—	No.	—	No.
Baptists	8	Lutherans	4
Bible Christians	2	Methodists	39
Congregationalists	4	Presbyterians	27
Davidites	2	Quaker	1
Episcopalians	43	Roman Catholics	29
Jew	1	Total	160

Statistics for the year ending 30th September, 1883.

III.—AGES.

	No.		No.
Five years	1	Seventeen years	13
Six "	2	Eighteen "	10
Seven "	1	Nineteen "	14
Eight "	1	Twenty "	8
Nine "	3	Twenty-one "	9
Ten "	6	Twenty-two "	9
Eleven "	7	Twenty-three years	7
Twelve "	6	Twenty-four years	4
Thirteen years	13	Twenty-five "	3
Fourteen "	7	Over twenty-five	21
Fifteen "	8		
Sixteen "	7	Total	160

IV.—ATTENDANCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending 30th September, 1872	20	14	34
" for year ending 30th September, 1873	34	24	58
" " " 1874	66	46	112
" " " 1875	89	50	139
" " " 1876	84	64	148
" " " 1877	76	72	148
" " " 1878	91	84	175
" " " 1879	100	100	200
" " " 1880	105	98	203
" " " 1881	103	98	201
" " " 1882	94	73	167
" " " 1883	88	72	160

Statistics for year ending 30th September, 1883.

V.—OCCUPATION OF PARENTS.

—	No.	—	No.
Actor	1	Merchants	10
Agents	2	Millers	2
Auctioneer	1	Miner	1
Axe grinder	1	Painters	2
Butler	1	Plumber	1
Boilermaker	1	Peddler	1
Bookkeeper	1	Printer	1
Basketmaker	1	Physicians	2
Blacksmiths	3	Saddler	1
Butcher	1	Salesman	1
Carpenters	11	Steamboat engineer	1
Clerks	2	Shoemakers	2
Conductor	1	Surveyors	2
Cooper	1	Tailor	1
Clergyman	1	Tanner	1
Drover	1	Tinsmith	1
Engineer	1	Tradesman	1
Educator	1	Vessel agent	1
Farmers	52	Veterinary surgeon	1
Gardeners	4	Waggon-maker	1
Hostler	1	Weaver	1
Hotel-keeper	1	Unknown	9
Labourers	26	Total	160

Report of the Physician.

Robert Christie, Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities:

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit the enclosed report of the Medical Department of the Institution for the Blind for the year ending Sept. 30th, 1883.

It will be seen by a detail of the more prominent medical cases that upon two separate occasions that highly contagious disease, measles, made its appearance among the pupils, but, by strict surveillance and isolation, in connection with a liberal use of disinfectants, the disease was confined to the subjects first affected.

That a proper estimate may be formed of the year's labors, a reference to the leading cases, with their treatment, is herewith subjoined.

The first case in the order of occurrence was that of a young lady pupil who suffered from most violent attacks of intercostral neuralgia, the pain often passing from the chest to the corresponding side of face and head. The hypodermic injection of morphia gave relief in the paroxysms of suffering, but even large doses of quinine as an anti-periodic failed to prevent the recurrence of the attacks at a particular hour each day. After a fair trial of this treatment, without success, recourse was had to the galvanic current with the happy effect not only of lulling the pain but of producing a permanent cure.

Very soon after her return to the Institution after vacation, another female pupil gave indications of tuberculous, or consumptive deposit in the lungs, and as there seemed little probability of improvement in her condition, I recommended her removal to the parental home, where, after a few months of suffering, her disease had a fatal termination.

In the following month a young man, whose large bony frame, pale cheek and sunken eyes, marked him as the inheritor of a frail constitution, began to exhibit symptoms of anemia so pronounced as to justify its classification as of the fatal pernicious form. The blood-forming remedies, such as iron and other tonics, proving of no avail, he was at my suggestion removed to the Toronto General Hospital, where, in the course of a few weeks, he succumbed to his disease.

The next important case was one of spinal curvature, in which the patient was kept in a recumbent position until the more acute symptoms had subsided, when, in the absence of appliances for the proper application of the plaster-jacket, she too was sent to the hospital for treatment, and has since returned home with every prospect of complete restoration to health.

Another pupil, a young man, while exercising, had the misfortune to rupture the external ligament of the ankle-joint, the extravasation of blood, the pain and the swelling, evidencing the severity of the sprain. The injured part was encased in the starch bandage, and the limb kept for some time in a horizontal position, when a good recovery resulted. Such injury requires much the same treatment as a fracture of the bone.

In the month of December one of the younger male pupils developed a case of measles, but, by prompt isolation and other precautionary measures, the further spread of the disease was fortunately prevented.

In the month of February, as the trades' instructor, Mr. Truss, was driving on the top of a sleighload of willows, the load was overturned, and he was thrown with violence upon the icy ground. He was immediately carried into the building, and, as I happened at the time to be making my daily visit, he received immediate attention. As soon as restoratives had produced some reaction from the shock and faintness, an examination revealed a dislocation of the shoulder-joint. He was immediately placed under the influence of chloroform, when the dislocation was easily reduced, although, owing to the severe injury and contusion of the shoulder by the fall of so heavy a person, some time elapsed before the arm recovered its normal condition of usefulness.

Another month had scarcely passed before Miss Hudson, the nurse on the female side, in trying to save herself from a fall, unfortunately broke her arm at the wrist. The arm was put up in one of the various forms devised for the Collis' fracture, and a most excellent result was obtained.

A little later on the house carpenter was laid up with inflammatory rheumatism, accompanied by pleuro-pneumonia of limited extent. In his case the salicylate of soda, the modern remedy for acute rheumatism, displayed its superior virtue in cutting short this painful malady.

In the month of April another case of measles became manifest on the girls' side, but, fortunately, a room in the officers' quarters was vacant, and thus partial isolation was secured. These precautions were again effectual in preventing the further spread of the disease.

Other cases interesting to the physician and surgeon might be mentioned, as those of the two employees who had violent attacks of abdominal colic, in one of which symptoms of intestinal obstruction were present, but which finally yielded to active remedies. Also of Mr. Truss' son, who had both bones of the forearm broken ; but enough has been given to shew the nature and responsibility of my duties which require firmness as well as other qualifications for their proper discharge.

I am happy again to report no deaths as occurring in the institution, and yet it should be explained that great vigilance is required to ward off such a misfortune, for, as a class, the blind easily lapse into an invalid state, and convalescence with them is often protracted. To insure their good health it seems necessary in a greater degree than in seeing persons that they should breathe a pure atmosphere, enjoy healthy surroundings, and be provided with plain, wholesome food, as well as a certain amount of physical exercise every day in the open air, all of which have been extended to our pupils by the wisdom and generosity of the Provincial Government.

During the past vacation an important and long-needed addition has been made to the sanitary arrangements of the institution by the construction of water-closets outside of but connected with the main building. Although some defects might be pointed out both in the plan and detail of these closets and baths, yet a great improvement has thus been made upon the former state of things.

My thanks are again expressed to Principal and other officers for kindness and courtesy shown me in the performance of my duties.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,

W. C. Carson, M.D.,
Physician to the Institution.